

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 06627 212309Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05
CEA-01 COME-00 EPG-02 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 OES-07 SP-02
SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 CEQ-01
EPA-01 IO-13 NSF-01 PA-01 PRS-01 /115 W
-----026197 212316Z /15

O 212259Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4207
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL
ALL OTHER CONSULATES GENERAL IN CANADA (BY POUCH)

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 06627

PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR SCHLESINGER AND GOLDMAN; FEA; FPC.

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, PGOV, CA
SUBJECT: OVERLOADED LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR AND TESTY MOOD OF
PARLIAMENT COULD INFLUENCE TONE OF PIPELINE DEBATE

1. DURING JULY 20 CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR, ENERGY,
MINES AND RESOURCES MINISTER ALASTAIR GILLESPIE OUTLINED
GOVERNMENT PLANS FOR MANAGING DEBATE ON PIPELINE.
2. GOVERNMENT TENTATIVELY INTENDS TO END SESSION
AUGUST 5, WITH PIPELINE DEBATE SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 4-5.
GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE NEUTRAL STANCE DURING DEBATE,
ALLOWING FULL PLAY TO OPPOSITION VIEWS. VEHICLE FOR
DEBATE WILL BE BLAND RESOLUTION PLACED ON ORDER PAPER
MAY 13 BY GOVERNMENT HOUSE LEADER MACEACHEN WHICH STATES
THAT GIVEN NATIONAL IMPORTANCE OF PIPELINE ISSUE ALL
RELEVANT REPORTS MUST BE CONSIDERED BEFORE DECIDING ON
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PIPELINE AND ITS ROUTE.

3. GILLESPIE SAID HE EXPECTS NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP)
MEMBERS TO ATTACK GOVERNMENT HANDLING OF DECISION PROCESS,
CLAIMING THAT DUE TO U.S. PRESSURE, GOVERNMENT HAS NOT ALLOWED
SUFFICIENT TIME TO STUDY ALCAN ROUTE. NDP ALSO LIKELY
TO REITERATE DEMAND THAT AS CONDITION OF APPROVAL OF

PIPELINE, U.S. AGREE TO TAKE OVER SOME OF EXISTING CANADIAN GAS EXPORT COMMITMENTS, SUBSTITUTING ALASKAN FOR CANADIAN GAS. PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE (PC) MEMBERS CONTINUE IN DISARRAY. SOME OPPOSE COOPERATION WITH U.S. IN BUILDING PIPELINE ON ECONOMIC NATIONALIST GROUNDS OR OUT OF SYMPATHY WITH NATIVE RIGHTS CAUSE. OTHERS MORE OR LESS AGREE WITH NDP POSITION THAT GOC NEEDS MORE TIME TO STUDY PROBLEM. WESTERNERS, PARTICULARLY MEMBERS WHOSE VIEWS REFLECT DOMINANCE OF OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY IN THEIR CONSTITUENCIES, FAVOR JOINT PROJECT WITH U.S.

UNCLASSIFIED

SEVERAL LIBERAL MEMBERS OPPOSE PIPELINE FOR SAME REASONS AS OPPOSITION.

4. GOVERNMENT PLANS FOR MANAGING PIPELINE ISSUE FIT INTO OVERALL LEGISLATIVE STRATEGY AIMED AT WRAPPING UP MAJOR PIECES OF LEGISLATION BEFORE PARLIAMENT RISES ON AUGUST 5. MACEACHEN ANNOUNCED JULY 20 THAT GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO SECURE FINAL PASSAGE BEFORE PARLIAMENT'S SUMMER RECESS OF NEW IMMIGRATION ACT, LEGISLATION PUTTING AIR CANADA UNDER CLOSER GOVERNMENT CONTROL, AND ACT TO PUT CANADA'S GRAIN TRADE ON METRIC SYSTEM.

5. COMMENT: GOVERNMENT FIRM IN INTENTION TO HOLD PIPELINE DEBATE AUGUST 4-5. WHETHER PARLIAMENT CAN WORK

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ITS WAY THROUGH MAJOR PENDING LEGISLATION BEFORE THEN IS QUESTIONABLE; IT MAY HAVE TO REMAIN IN SESSION UNTIL MID-AUGUST.

6. MPS ARE ALREADY SHOWING SIGNS OF NEAR EXHAUSTION FROM THIS UNUSUALLY LONG SESSION AND ARE IN NOTICEABLY TESTY MOOD. SITUATION NOT HELPED BY BREAKDOWN OF PARLIAMENT'S AIRCONDITIONING IN MIDST OF SEVERE OTTAWA HEAT WAVE. MOOD COULD CONCEIVABLY HAVE SOME EFFECT ON TONE OF PIPELINE DEBATE. IMMIGRATION ACT IS CONTROVERSIAL WITH SOME 56 AMENDMENTS REFLECTING INFLUENCE OF VARIETY OF SPECIAL INTEREST, ETHNIC GROUPS. METRIC CONVERSION IS EQUALLY CONTROVERSIAL IN GRAIN PRODUCING AREAS WITH STRONG FARMER OPPOSITION, MOST OF WHICH REPRESENTED BY WESTERN PC MEMBERS. POSSIBLE FIREWORKS OVER THESE BILLS COULD, AT TIME OF PIPELINE DEBATE, EITHER LEAVE MPS IN MOOD FOR BLOOD-LETTING OR ALTERNATIVELY IN SUBDUED FRAME OF MIND DESIRING, ABOVE ALL, TO GET OUT OF TOWN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IN ANY EVENT, PIPELINE DEBATE UNLIKELY TO INVOLVE STRONG PARTISAN CONFRONTATION IN VIEW OF SPLIT IN PC CAUCUS AND SOME DISAGREEMENT AMONG LIBERAL MEMBERS. ONLY NDP WITH 16 MEMBERS ABLE TO

PRESENT UNITED FRONT AGAINST GOVERNMENT HANDLING OF
PIPELINE ISSUE. ENDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
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Review Event:
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1790798
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OVERLOADED LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR AND TESTY MOOD OF PARLIAMENT COULD INFLUENCE TONE OF PIPELINE DEBATE
TAGS: ENRG, PGOV, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b8dfea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009